Philad^a June 12 1861

My dear Friend

Since last writing I made a visit to Washington & vicinity seeing an abundance of Troops with all the fixings for crushing out the great Rebellion, It is plain to be seen there is too much corruption and political clap trap at work in the appointing of important offices and I fear worse results than that just happened at Great Bethel (so called) will occur from the insufficiency of Military leaders, Lieut Gable who was killed at his gun is one sacrifice of the blunder. He was a regular educated Soldier better capacitated to lead the Column than Pierce – a holiday Soldier whose only experience was in having the title of Gen^l without any skill in the profession. Gable was a noble fellow – a near neighbor & I am well acquainted with his father, who left the same morning the fatal news arrived to see his Son at the Fort – taking a Coat of mine to comfort the young wife of his

how had carefully prepared - little dreaming
the poor fellow was at the time laying
stark & stiff on the battle field - but -
such is horrid war - and this is only
a small beginning I fear.

Gen'l Butler is no doubt - a smart
keen lawyer - but has he the cool concise
judgement - requisite for important command
during actual war. We must - open our
eyes to the fact - that the South intend
to fight desperately - it is such or nothing
for them, victory or a halter for Jeff
Davis & his crew. Slavery or no Slavery
is the real issue and all this talk
& proclomations about - noninterference
and returning fugitive slaves is humbug.
If slavery is to be perpetuated through
our Army subduing the South - we are
fighting for a shadow and had best
stop at once without further bloodshed
by letting the Union be dissolved.
Any peace or compromise recognizing
slavery will again lead to war
One is mortified at the inconsistency of many

in this city saying they are in favor of slavery in the South and it has not caused this war. This seems absurd and appears so to the South - for they know the sentiments of the North must naturally grow more antislavery every day - and their only safety (the South) rests in a seperate despotic government - which they are now fighting to obtain. But - I am filling this sheet without giving you any word about myself & movements. Your letter of last month duly reached me with pleasure. I have had no call yet for my services from the Navy department - The Secretary Mr Welles received me kindly. It has been a long time since I have been at sea - yet - I could soon become efficient - as a sea officer I think, I would not care to go back to that profession unless in line of promotion. There is a perfect rush of applications for places in the Army & Navy - worthy for the spoils of war - and it is lamentable to see men receiving appointments whose only merit rests in having political influence.

Henry Wilson has considerable influence with the powers that be, but I have no acquaintance with him,

Did I mention to you that Chas Sumner told me his intent for that Consulship was held for one of his constituents in Mass, The boys are both very well and at School - Vacation begins the end of this month, The dear little fellows often speak of you and have fond remembrance of New Bedford, I should much like to see you in Weymouth this summer - but being to near my old Home in N Bedford - I somewhat dread the idea, you will understand my feelings in this respect, It may seem strange but I could not - enter New Bedford without feeling very unhappy, My great anxiety and care is for the welfare of my boys - they are just of the age requiring careful guidance and this reflection rather prevents my seeking more eagerly a place in the Navy for active service, Still I would not hesitate if I obtain a proper position, Times are now decidedly hard in business matters - with all property greatly depreciated and uncertain,

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I am tired doing nothing & discontented. It is impossible to form any correct opinion concerning the probable results of this war on the business interests of the Country - for every thing at present is in confusion, the safest plan would be to settle in the Country somewhere on a good farm likely to yield a good living, and in the end this perhaps would be best for the boys.

Soldiering is all the rage in this City and Counties for all plenty of the same spirit - in your quiet village, Camp life is dreadfully demoralizing and what will become of the thousands who return from the war - unfitted mostly for ordinary occupations,

This is termed an age of progress - it may be explained in the same way that good comes out of evil oftentimes - for at present - the whole land seems to be on the backward track in all that advances the happiness & prosperity of the people, Even Europe is preparing for

another devastating war, you see I believe - still a non combattent, I only wish this Science of war should become so terribly effective as to completely destroy contending armies - then disputes would be settled as they ought - Due - on fair & equitable principles, after all our fighting the pen will settle this dispute between the North & the South, and I much fear if the Union continues Slavery will not be disturbed, we at the North are forced into this war - and now I am in favor of fighting to the bitter end, If we are fairly whipped in open field give up the government of the whole but not until we have exhausted all our resources,

I hope you will remember me in these exciting times & let me have payment letters - I receive them with great pleasure you get your ones from me in reply - but I write freely without much regard to style & composition. you are so closely associated with the memory of my dear Wife & still feel our dear good friend exists who has my interest at heart, the weather is becoming very hot, My Mother & family are all well - they send kindest regards. I shall remain here until the boys come from school, the city is very quiet - waiting news of the battle, you are equally interested no doubt - Hoping I can hear from you

Plenty of love from the Boys. Believe me faithfully Yours

L. R. Ormsbee

Ms. A. 9.2. 3047